

ABSTRACT

A database system and method that is compatible with multiple end-use systems, even when changes and/or updates are made to the layout, format, and/or data content in the database. The database includes a structure section and a data section. The data section includes a plurality of stored data records that have one or more features. The structure section includes a feature mask that has data stored therein that indicates whether a particular one of the data records is compatible with one or more end-user systems.